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STATUS REPORT ON SOLAR JOOCE VISIT TO DANCHITAGI PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FACILITY.

BACKGROUND.

Danchitagi Community is located about 20 kilometers from Bida town in Lavun Local Government Area of Niger State. Danchitagi has a population of about 12,000 men, women and children. The community members are predominantly farmers. Other villages like Jima, Edobaba, Ebangi, Sausa, and Gbade are all neighboring communities respectively. The community is being headed by a community leader the Ndazhetsu of Danchitagi with his council of chiefs.

SITUATION ANALYSIS.

Danchitagi has a primary school built by the government and a health care facility built through communal effort, however the primary health care facility has no access to power supply and had largely depended on the use of touch lights and hurricane lamps mostly at night to attend to clients who patronize the health facility.

A team of Solar Jooce was at the community during its 36 days solar for masses expedition.

Solar Jooce a Non-Governmental Organization which seeks to promote access to alternative power supply by providing basic solar appliances to primary health care centers and micro-businesses and to recruit rural women for training as Solar Engineers met with the Community Leaders and health facility workers to donate a solar lamp to the health facility.

The lamp which was donated on the 26th May, 2010 has since been very functional and useful.

A team of Centre for Health and Development in Africa (CHEDA) a Non-Governmental Organization was at the community on 26th July, 2010 to assess the state and functionality of the lamp. The visit which was at 8:00 pm in the night was planned to enable the team to assess the impact of the lamp as an alternative source to its previously used torch lights and hurricane lamp.

IMPACT:

As at the time of visit the lamp was in perfect condition and has been very useful.

The Community Health extension worker (CHEW) noted that, the lamp has not only made their work easy but has also increased patronage and quality of services at the health facility compared with when they had to rely on touch light and hurricane lamp. He added that the lamp has also saved the cost of having to buy kerosene for their lamp.

The community health extension worker added that, the lamp is usually recharged after 20 hrs of use and the duration to which the lamp retains the charge depends on the hours of use. He added that the lamp is being well maintained by not allowing water to beat the panel.

The lamp which has become a thing of wonder to some while others call it a magical lamp has not failed to attract the attention of the community members. He noted that a number facility staff working in health facilities within the neighboring communities like Ebangi, Gbade, Jima, Sausa and Edobaba who have had or seen the lamp have expressed their delight and would appreciate if Solar Jooce could extend the kind gesture to their own health facilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

The health workers and community members expressed their gratitude to Solar Jooce for helping to alleviate their challenge in terms of power supply to the facility; however they are soliciting more support to having one more lamp or the bigger solar panel that can power the facility and its extension effectively.

They are also soliciting the support of Solar Jooce to kindly assist in collaborating with other partners to help in renovating their health facility.

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